

REMARKS:

Claims 3, 8, 16-32 and 39-42 stand cancelled. No new matter has been added, thus, claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-15, 33-38, and 43-90 are pending and under consideration.

COMMUNICATION WITH EXAMINER:

Per conversations with the Examiner, this Supplemental Amendment addresses claims 73-89, which were not addressed in the Office Action mailed February 3, 2004. The Amendment and Terminal Disclaimer filed May 3, 2004 are incorporated by reference herein.

However, the arguments presented below pertaining to claims 73-89 are also advanced to distinguish claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-15, 23-32, and 43-73 as applicable.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 73-89 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e):

In the Office Action mailed April 29, 2004, Examiner rejected claims 73-89 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,726,884 ('884). The rejection is traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

'884 discusses an integrated hazardous substance tracking and compliance system for a facility using functional groupings and a database schema that integrates these groupings and allows them to share and exchange relevant information related to the facility.

The present application discloses a system to be used by regulatory agencies to manage regulated entities using a database system architecture having integrated data management.

The Examiner compares the '884 hazardous substance management system for in-house management of regulatory compliance-related functions of a facility with the system of the present invention for managing regulatory programming information of a plurality of regulated entities. In '884, the functional groupings allow management and tracking of information related to all hazardous substances *on site* (see, column 12, lines 19-22 of '884) by generating in-house chemical transfer, usage and mass balance reports, and managing both permits and activities covered by these permits (see, column 13, lines 34-49 of '884). This means that the '884 system is directed to managing a single regulated entity, which causes inconsistency in policies and work processes across multiple regulated entities.

The present invention provides a solution by providing a system and method for managing regulatory programming information as applied to *a plurality of regulated entities*. As recited in claims 73, 82 and 89, the system of the present invention provides a user interface for "inputting operational data for selected subject items of a selected regulated entity" as regulatory

information. And as recited in claim 88, the present invention provides a system for regulation of the regulated entities including “a joint usage database storing regulated entity identifiers and subject items and operational data of the regulated entities”. This enables comprehensive management of operations of the regulated entities. For example, as recited in claim 87, the method of managing the information of the regulated entities includes “adding permit data to the joint-usage database by referencing at least one of the subject items for one of the regulated entities for generating a permit for at least one of the subject items”. This means that the present invention enables monitoring of “the regulatory information associated with a selected subject item” (see, claim 85) to implement centralized management of the regulated entities associated with the selected subject item. Thus, unlike the ‘884 system that is limited to managing a single facility, the system of the present invention provides a mechanism to respectively manage a plurality of regulated entities based on subject items corresponding to each regulated entity.

Further, the present invention provides “a centralized database storing regulatory information on a plurality of subject items for a plurality of regulated entities” to allow management of subject items of the regulated entities relating to a plurality of different regulatory program areas (see, claims 73, 82 and 89 of the present invention). The ‘884 system directed to managing and tracking hazardous substances of a facility does not teach or suggest managing various “subject items of regulated entities” as disclosed by the present invention.

It is submitted that the independent claims are patentable over ‘884.

For at least the above-mentioned reasons and additional reasons, claims depending from independent claims 73, 82, 85 and 87-89 are patentably distinguishable over ‘884. For example, as recited in claim 83, the integrated system for management of regulatory programming information of the regulated entities includes generating “multi-program inspection checklists based upon the operation data entered into the database for a respective regulated entity”. The ‘884 system is limited to generating reports required for compliance of a single regulatory agency. Thus, the ‘884 method does not teach or suggest providing an integrated system for managing “regulatory information on a plurality of subject items for a plurality of regulated entities” because the ‘884 method is directed decentralized management of individual regulated entities based on in-house operational information.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIM 90:

The discussion regarding new claim 90 provided in the Amendment of May 3, 2004 is incorporated by reference herein.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

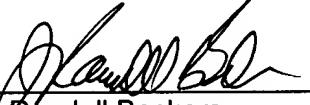
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 9/3/04

By: 
J. Randall Beckers
Registration No. 30,358

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501